

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please insert the following paragraphs after the first paragraph at page 7.

FIG. 1a depicts a membrane in accordance with another embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 1b depicts a membrane in accordance with yet another embodiment of the present invention;

Please insert the following paragraph after the carryover paragraph at page 8.

FIG. 1a shows a membrane 15 with passage 16 similar to that depicted in FIG. 1, except the cylindrical passages 17 which extend through the membrane 15 between the two facing areas of the membrane 15 include one or more hollow spaces formed by the pores 18 of an elastic, porous, but overall non-permeable material 19, i.e. by means of a porous material whose pores are closed. FIG. 1b shows a membrane 15 with passage 16 extending through a non-porous portion 10 of the membrane 15. A porous material 30 surrounds the elastic, non-porous material, and the porous material 30 provides at least one hollow space in the elastic material of the membrane next to the passage, into which space the membrane can be deformed when compressed.